

Restoring Rights

Before the Civil War the majority of states barred men convicted of serious crimes from voting. By 1920 only three states had no form of felon disenfranchisement. Depending on the state, applicable crimes included murder, voter fraud, burglary, vagrancy, or any crime resulting in imprisonment. In theory, disenfranchisement guaranteed a moral voter pool. In practice, it legally reduced the voting population of minorities and immigrants.

Today millions of otherwise eligible voters, many of them minorities, cannot vote because of felony convictions.



Button, "Restore the Vote MN"

Gift of Emily Baxter, We Are All Criminals

[View object record](#) [/collections/nmah_1818555](#)



Button, "Restore Voting Rights"

Gift of Emily Baxter, *We Are All Criminals*

[View object record </collections/nmah_1818554>](#)



Restore Felon Voting Rights, 2014

Supporters rallied at the Florida state capitol in Tallahassee to urge changes in state laws that would restore voting rights to convicted felons.

Courtesy of Tom Urban/News Service of Florida



**EVERY
VOTE &
VOICE
COUNTS**

***Convicted of a Felony?
Take Your Voice Back!***

You are eligible to VOTE on Election Day if you are NOT currently incarcerated, on probation, on parole, or on supervised release

The moment you finish your felony sentence and are "off paper," you can register to vote online or by mail OR you can register to vote at your polling place on Election Day

If you were convicted of a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor but not a felony, you DID NOT lose your right to vote

If you are in jail and are not serving a felony sentence, you have the right to vote by absentee ballot

Voter ID is not required in the 2014 Election

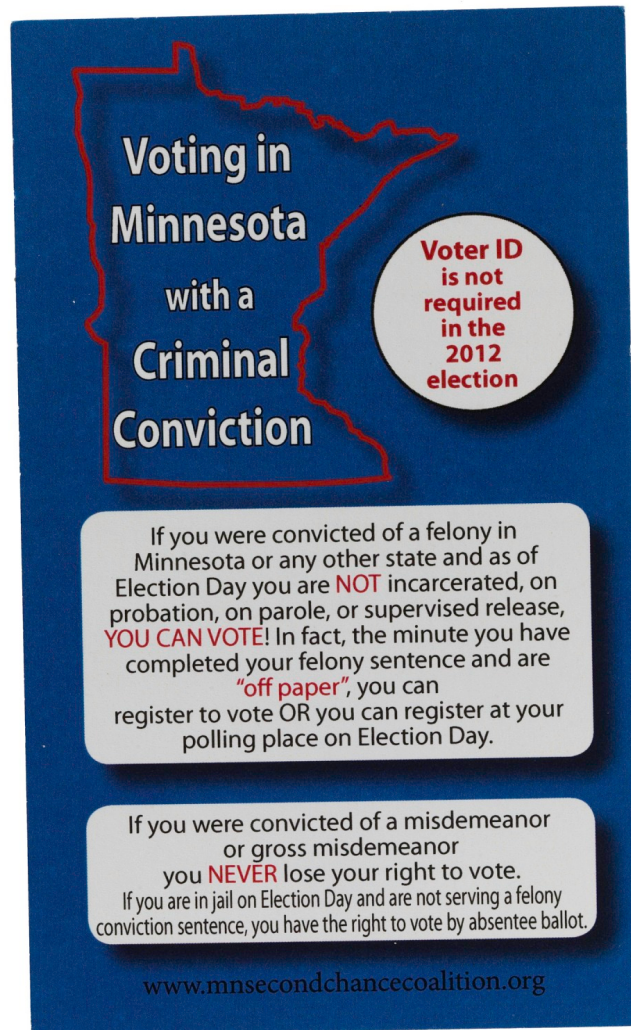
If you received a Stay of Adjudication on a felony, you may be eligible to vote



Info card, "Every Vote and Voice Counts", 2014

Gift of Emily Baxter, We Are All Criminals

View object record </collections/nmah_1818515>



Info card, "Voting in Minnesota with a Criminal Conviction", 2012

Gift of Emily Baxter, We Are All Criminals

View object record </collections/nmah_1818511>

Hours & Admission

Open every day, except December 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission is free and no tickets are required.

Location & Contact

1300 Constitution Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20560 <<https://www.google.com/maps/place/smithsonian+national+museum+of+american+history/@38.8912835,-77.0322449,17z>>

Contact Information </about/contact>

Our mission is to empower people to create a just and compassionate future by exploring, preserving, and sharing the complexity of our past.

Sign Up For Our Newsletter

Donate </support>

Email powered by MailChimp

(Privacy Policy & Terms of Use <<https://mailchimp.com/legal/>>)

Press Center </press> **Shop Museum Store** <<https://www.smithsonianstore.com/category/museums/american-history.do>> **Smithsonian Institution**
<<https://www.si.edu>> **Privacy** <<https://www.si.edu/privacy>> **Terms of Use** <<https://www.si.edu/termsfuse>>